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## Georgetown Timber

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February 23, 2000



Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
Office of the Secretary  
Case Control Unit  
Attn: STB Ex Parte No. 582  
1925 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: Proposed merger of Candian National (CN) with Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF)

Dear Sir:

The purpose of this letter is to comment on the issues to be discussed on March 8th, 2000 in Ex Parte 582.

Georgetown Timber Ltd. is a manufacturer and distributor of lumber products using rail service in the US and Canada. We have no objection to the proposed merger between Canadian National (CN) and Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF), inasmuch as this does not create a disruption in our present service or rates but rather an improvement. We would even welcome the opportunities to expand our own market.

We encourage the Surface Transportation Board to focus on whether the proposed CN-BNSF combination is good for shippers, not on potential downstream effects. The CN-BNSF combination should be judged on its merits and if other carriers propose mergers, then these cases ought to be evaluated on their merits.

Sincerely,

M. Léandre Cormier  
President

Office of the Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board

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